

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 63-88 as indicated below:

PENDING CLAIMS

63. (New) An orthopedic implant assembly, comprising:
- a. a stabilizing element having an anterior surface, a posterior surface, and at least one bore, the bore having an anterior portion, a posterior portion with a transverse dimension smaller than a transverse dimension of the anterior portion; and
 - b. a stopping member which is at least partially disposed within the bore of the stabilizing element, which defining at least in part a reversibly expandable passageway having a first transverse configuration with a transverse dimension that is smaller than a transverse dimension of the anterior portion of the bore of the stabilizing element and a second transverse configuration with a transverse dimension larger than the transverse dimension of the first configuration;
 - c. a securing element having an elongated body and a head which has a maximum transverse dimension greater than the transverse dimension of the first configuration of the stopping member passageway and greater than a transverse dimension of the posterior portion of the bore in the stabilizing element, so that the head of the securing element is retained between the stopping member and the smaller transverse dimension in the posterior portion of the bore.

64. (New) The intracorporeal medical device of claim 63 wherein the stopping surface is configured to prevent the back-out of the second component through the bore of the first component.

65. (New) The assembly of claim 63 wherein the stopping member is biased to the first configuration.

66. (New) The assembly of claim 65 wherein the stopping member comprises a biased collar.

67. (New) The assembly of claim 63 wherein the head of the securing element has a curved posterior surface.

68. (New) The assembly of claim 66 wherein the bore has a groove in an anterior portion configured to receive the biased collar, and wherein the biased collar is configured to be reversibly expandable when seated in the groove.

69. (New) The assembly of claim 67 wherein the head of the securing element has a curved posterior surface and which is configured to contact the collar anterior surface and expand the collar as the head is displaced posteriorly through a passageway of the collar.

70. (New) The assembly of claim 69 wherein the head of the securing element has a curved posterior surface which has a minimum transverse dimension smaller than the transverse dimension of the passageway of the unexpanded collar, and which is configured to contact the collar anterior surface and deflect the collar away from a longitudinal axis of the transverse passageway as the head is displaced posteriorly through the collar passageway.

71. (New) The assembly of claim 66 wherein the collar has an anterior surface which tapers toward the collar passageway.

72. (New) The assembly of claim 71 wherein a posterior bore portion is curved and configured to receive the curved posterior surface of the head.

73. (New) The assembly of claim 63 wherein the head of the securing element is longitudinally displaceable between a posterior surface of the stopping member and the posterior portion of the bore of the stabilizing element.

74. (New) The assembly of claim 10 wherein the body of the securing element has a transverse dimension smaller than the transverse dimension of the posterior portion of the bore of the stabilizing element, and wherein the securing element may be angularly displaced within the posterior portion of the bore of the stabilizing element.

75. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the stabilizing element includes at least two bores.

76. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the stabilizing element is configured to conform to and extend between at least two bone segments.

77. (New) The assembly of claim 13 wherein the stabilizing element has a curved posterior surface.

78. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the stabilizing element is selected from the group consisting of rods and plates.

79. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the securing element is selected from the group consisting of screws and nails.

80. (New) The assembly of claim 3 wherein the collar is formed of an elastically deformable material.

81. (New) The assembly of claim 3 wherein the collar is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of titanium and superelastic material.

82. (New) The assembly of claim 2 wherein the collar has a posterior surface perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the transverse passageway.

83. (New) The assembly of claim 5 wherein the collar has a height less than the height of the groove.

84. (New) An orthopedic implant assembly, comprising:

a. a stabilizing element having an anterior surface, a posterior surface, and at least one bore, the bore having an anterior portion, a posterior portion with a transverse dimension smaller than a transverse dimension of the anterior portion, and a stopping member at the anterior portion of the bore; and

b. a securing element having an elongated body and a head secured to the body which is reversibly compressible with a compressed transverse dimension less than the transverse dimension of the anterior portion of the bore and with an uncompressed transverse dimension greater than an inner transverse dimension of the stopping member and the posterior portion of the bore, so that the head of the securing element is retained between the stopping member and the smaller transverse dimension of the posterior portion of the bore of the stabilizing element.

85. (New) The implant assembly of claim 84 wherein the head of the securing element is configured to be displaceable posteriorly through the stopping member from an anterior to a posterior surface thereof.

86. (New) The implant assembly of claim 84 wherein the head of the securing element has a plurality of slots and circumferentially disposed members, the circumferentially disposed members having posterior ends secured to the body of the securing element, and anterior ends radially moveable toward a longitudinal axis of the head of the securing element to form the compressed configuration and away from the longitudinal axis to form the uncompressed configuration.

87. (New) The assembly of claim 84 wherein the stopping member is in the anterior portion of the bore.

88. (New) The assembly of claim 84 wherein the stopping member has a posterior surface perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bore.